

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3673

USTREASURY WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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TREASURY FOR US CUSTOMS HEADQUARTERS

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, MX

SUBJECT: VISIT OF CUSTOMS OFFICERS

REF: BRASILIA 0558

1. EMBASSY OFFICER ACCOMPANIED BY MESSRS. PADILLA AND WRIGHT DELIVERED AIDE MEMOIRE ON US CUSTOMS REQUEST ON JANUARY 23, AS REQUESTED BY FONOFF AND FINANCE MINISTRY.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE:

THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY REQUESTS THE ASSISTANCE OF THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT IN CERTAIN U.S. CUSTOMS INQUIRIES WHICH ARE RELATED TO ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES OF CERTAIN PRACTICES BY U.S. IMPORTERS. THE INQUIRIES ARE INTENDED TO HELP ESTABLISH THE VALUE FOR CUSTOMS PURPOSES OF GOODS IMPORTED FROM A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES INCLUDING BRAZIL.

U. S. CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVES WISH TO REQUEST CERTAIN BRAZILIAN FIRMS TO MAKE AVAILABLE, ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS, COST AND ACCOUNTING DATA RELATED TO MERCHANDISE EXPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES.

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IN THE VIEW OF THE U.S. CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVES,

THE MOST EXPEDITIOUS WAY TO PURSUE THE INQUIRY WOULD BE FOR THE U.S. CUSTOMS OFFICIALS TO BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERVIEW THE COMPANY OFFICIALS PERSONALLY. THIS METHOD OF INQUIRY IS CURRENTLY BEING PURSUED IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED.

IF THE ABOVE DIRECT APPROACH IS NOT CONSIDERED FEASIBLE, THE EMBASSY WISHES TO EXPLORE WITH THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF OBTAINING THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE U.S. INQUIRY.

THE INITIAL INFORMATION LEADING TO THE INQUIRIES WAS OBTAINED BY U. S. CUSTOMS FROM SEVERAL DIFFERENT SOURCES, FOR INSTANCE, REPORTS RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMS BROKERS, COST COMPARISON RESEARCH, DISCREPANCIES NOTED BY U.S. CUSTOMS OFFICIALS ON CUSTOMS DECLARATION FORMS. (ATTACHED ARE FURTHER, MORE SPECIFIC DETAILS ON THE PERTINENT CASES PRESENTLY OF INTEREST TO U.S. CUSTOMS.)

THE U. S. CUSTOMS SERVICE WOULD BE PREPARED TO RECIPROCATATE BY PROVIDING DATA OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES. AS AN EXAMPLE, CUSTOMS COULD MAKE AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON EXPORTS OF SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF LIQUOR FROM THE UNITED STATES, ON A BASIS WHICH IS ILLEGAL BY U.S. LAWS. THESE DATA MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO BRAZILIAN CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES IN IDENTIFYING POSSIBLE CONTRABAND LIQUOR IMPORT INTO BRAZIL.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ALSO HOPES THAT THE PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF COOPERATION COULD LEAD TO A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CUSTOMS SERVICES OF BRAZIL AND THE UNITED STATES. THIS RELATIONSHIP WAS BEGUN SEVERAL YEARS AGO AND HAS RESULTED IN SEVERAL COOPERATIVE EFFORTS OF MUTUAL BENEFIT. THESE EFFORTS FORESEEN FOR THE FUTURE COULD ENCOMPASS SUCH SUBJECTS AS COOPERATION IN SMUGGLING CASES AND IN OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST TO BOTH COUNTRIES, INCLUDING, IF THE BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES ARE INTERESTED, THE EXCHANGE OF TECHNOLOGY OR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRAINING.

ANY INFORMATION EXCHANGE WOULD BE TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. THE EMBASSY ALSO WISHES TO GIVE ASSURANCE THAT THE TYPE OF INFORMATION WHICH THE U. S. CUSTOMS SERVICE IS SEEKING, DOES NOT HAVE ANY BEARING WHATSOEVER ON U.S. COUNTERVAILING OR ANTI-DUMPING ACTION, CURRENT OR PROSPECTIVE.

THE EMBASSY REQUESTS THE APPROVAL OF THE BRAZILIAN
GOVERNMENT FOR THE PROPOSED INQUIRY AS OUTLINED ABOVE.
THE U.S. CUSTOMS OFFICIALS WILL BE READY TO BEGIN THE
INQUIRIES, ON A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE BASIS, ON FEBRUARY 3,
1976.

3. MINISTER SERGIO ROUANET PROMISED ECON COUNSELOR A
PROMPT RESPONSE TO THE AIDE MEMOIRE.
CRIMMINS

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